

SECRET

Approved For Release 2002/05/01 : CIA-RDP78-05077A000100080012-2

1972

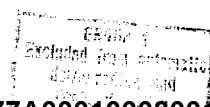
MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel

SUBJECT : The Incidence of Problem Drinking in the Agency

1. Since November of 1970 our office identifies approximately 70 cases of staff personnel that have been or are associated with problems of drinking that interfere with official performance. It is our impression that the extent of the problem is growing, albeit slowly, and that individual cases occurring in the Agency consume considerable time, effort, and manpower. It is clear that the problem is with us and that the emergence of an alcohol program in the Agency is timely and welcome.

2. In considering the extent of problem drinking, it is observed that the illness constitutes a strange malady. It is slow and insidious in development, making early diagnosis and identification difficult. When developed so as to permit recognition, attitudes of secrecy and denial become operative obscuring and hiding symptoms. Eventually the process surfaces, but even then relatives and associates endure and cover for the individual until the process finally overflows. This long incubation period and delayed emergence, help explain current Agency experiences. As a generalization, our offices are seeing those cases that have been in development for some period of time and have reached a stage beyond containment. What is not known is the extent of cases less extreme.

3. There have been many studies done on the extent of alcoholism, particularly in industry. Authorative estimates place the incidence somewhere between the range of 4 to 8%. Whether these figures are applicable to the government is yet undetermined. Whether these figures are representative of the Agency seems doubtful. It is much more likely that the incidence in the Agency is lower due to its selection system and system of discipline within the organization. Perhaps more representative figures will emerge as a result of the alcohol program.



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Our office plans to give careful attention this coming year to the collection of data relating to this question of incidence. We will be happy to provide you with such information as indicated.

SIGNED

JOHN R. TIETJEN M.D.

JOHN R. TIETJEN, M. D.
Director of Medical Services

OMS/JRT:jvk

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - addressee
2 - D/MS files

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 61 1972
TO: D/GMS		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS: D.O.T. Attached is copy of routing sheet used when Alcoholism paper sent forward. See Bill Colby's note - I'd appreciate any information you can provide. HBS		
FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:		EXTENSION	NO.
Director of Personnel 5 E 56 Headquarters		6825	DATE 28 FEB 1972
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED	
Executive Director- Comptroller 7E12 HQ.	2/28	2/28	<p>We plan to provide a short block on this subject to be included in the supervisory training now given by CTR.</p> <p>5: Could you give me a statement of what degree of alcoholism problem we have?</p> <p>21 Mar 72</p>
2. Deputy Director for Support 7D-26 Hqs.			
3. Executive Director-Comptroller 7E-12 Hqs.		3/2	
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5. DDS			
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